

Fairness Doctrine

A new law called the Fairness Doctrine will require broadcasters to "afford reasonable opportunity for the discussion of conflicting views of public importance." If a Christian or Talk radio station, for example, presented a teaching or opinion that others disagreed with; that radio station would be required to allow others to go on the air on their station to speak their opposing viewpoint.

Some reasons why the Fairness Doctrine should **not** be made a law:

- 1) It is not fair. In these modern days information is abundant with TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet. Most of the TV and newspapers in the USA are liberal while conservative sources are in the minority.
- 2) The Fairness Doctrine would violate the Bill of Rights of the US Constitution:
 - The First Amendment says that people have the right to speak freely **without government interference**. Speech codes, laws, regulations, and censorship curtail free speech.
 - The First Amendment protects the right to practice religion **without government interference**.
 - The First Amendment says that people have the right to assemble, join, and associate with groups and organizations **without interference**. Unlike the past we can now assemble together and have communication using the radio, TV, Internet, and/or telephone. The Fairness Doctrine would be like making people listen to country music when all they really want to hear is Jazz, or like forcing a group of hunters to listen to PETA.
- 3) The worst nations usually have censorship on the media (TV, radio, newspapers) in order to prevent opposition to a leader or political party. This law is about politics.
- 4) Do we really need more laws, an army of government radio monitors, and lawsuits?

If the Fairness Doctrine should become law; then it should apply to the other media as well. Many TV newscasts have a liberal point of view so when the newscast is done a following conservative newscast should be mandatory. Or following most of the TV shows a moral teacher/pastor should be allowed to talk about why the words, violence, and sexual immorality portrayed in the TV program are wrong. The Fairness Doctrine will only lead to trouble.

If we really want fairness – always have radio frequencies available for liberal and conservative stations. Capitalism and the free market will allow a radio station to exist if people are interested enough to support it financially. Do not make regulations requiring opposing views. Those views can easily be found elsewhere. Please let people be free to choose what they want to hear.

Thank You

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